



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 855***

LCO No. 3029



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF NURSE STAFFING LEVELS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-89e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

5 (2) "Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care and  
6 treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical  
7 or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in  
8 general hospitals.

9 (b) [On and after July 1, 2009, each] Each hospital licensed by the  
10 department pursuant to chapter 368v shall [, upon request, make  
11 available] report, annually, to the department on a prospective nurse  
12 staffing plan with a written certification that the nurse staffing plan is  
13 sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate delivery of health care  
14 services to patients in the ensuing period of licensure. Such plan shall

15 promote a collaborative practice in the hospital that enhances patient  
16 care and the level of services provided by nurses and other members of  
17 the hospital's patient care team.

18 (c) Each hospital shall establish a hospital staffing committee to  
19 assist in the preparation of the nurse staffing plan required pursuant to  
20 subsection (b) of this section. Registered nurses employed by the  
21 hospital whose primary responsibility is to provide direct patient care  
22 shall account for not less than fifty per cent of the membership of each  
23 hospital's staffing committee. In order to comply with the requirement  
24 that a hospital establish a hospital staffing committee, a hospital may  
25 utilize an existing committee or committees to assist in the preparation  
26 of the nurse staffing plan, provided not less than fifty per cent of the  
27 members of such existing committee or committees are registered  
28 nurses employed by the hospital whose primary responsibility is to  
29 provide direct patient care. Each hospital, in collaboration with its  
30 staffing committee, shall develop and implement to the best of its  
31 ability the prospective nurse staffing plan. Such plan shall: (1) Include  
32 the minimum professional skill mix for each patient care unit in the  
33 hospital, including, but not limited to, inpatient services, critical care  
34 and the emergency department; (2) identify the hospital's employment  
35 practices concerning the use of temporary and traveling nurses; (3) set  
36 forth the level of administrative staffing in each patient care unit of the  
37 hospital that ensures direct care staff are not utilized for administrative  
38 functions; (4) set forth the hospital's process for internal review of the  
39 nurse staffing plan; and (5) include the hospital's mechanism of  
40 obtaining input from direct care staff, including nurses and other  
41 members of the hospital's patient care team, in the development of the  
42 nurse staffing plan. In addition to the information described in  
43 subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection, nurse staffing plans  
44 developed and implemented after January 1, 2016, shall include: (A)  
45 The number of registered nurses providing direct patient care and the  
46 ratio of patients to such registered nurses; (B) the number of licensed  
47 practical nurses providing direct patient care and the ratio of patients  
48 to such licensed practical nurses, by patient care unit; (C) the number

49 of assistive personnel providing direct patient care and the ratio of  
 50 patients to such assistive personnel, by patient care unit; (D) the  
 51 method used by the hospital to determine and adjust direct patient  
 52 care staffing levels; and (E) a description of supporting personnel  
 53 assisting on each patient care unit. In addition to the information  
 54 described in subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection and  
 55 subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of this subdivision, nurse staffing  
 56 plans developed and implemented after January 1, 2017, shall include:  
 57 (i) A description of any differences between the staffing levels  
 58 described in the staffing plan and actual staffing levels for each patient  
 59 care unit; and (ii) any actions the hospital intends to take to address  
 60 such differences or adjust staffing levels in future staffing plans.

61 (d) On or before January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the  
 62 Commissioner of Public Health shall report, in accordance with the  
 63 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the  
 64 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
 65 health concerning the effectiveness of hospital staffing plans, hospital  
 66 compliance with reporting requirements under this section and  
 67 recommendations concerning any additional reporting requirements.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	19a-89e

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***PH***      ***Joint Favorable***